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HUMAN RIGHTS QUESTIONS: HUMAN RIGHTS SITUATIONS AND REPORTS OF SPECIAL RAPPORTEURS AND REPRESENTATIVES

Rape and abuse of women in the areas of armed conflict in the former Yugoslavia

Report of the Secretary-General

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I. INTRODUCTION

1. At its fiftieth session, the General Assembly adopted, without a vote, resolution 50/192 of 22 December 1995, entitled "Rape and abuse of women in the areas of armed conflict in the former Yugoslavia".

2. In that resolution, the General Assembly strongly condemned the abhorrent practice of rape and abuse of women and children in the area of armed conflict in the former Yugoslavia and reaffirmed that rape in the conduct of armed conflict constituted a war crime and that under certain circumstances it constituted a crime against humanity and an act of genocide as defined in the Convention on the Prevention and Punishment of the Crime of Genocide.

3. It is important to note that, in the above-mentioned resolution, the General Assembly strongly emphasized the question of individual responsibility. It reaffirmed that persons who perpetrated or authorized the perpetration of crimes against humanity or other violations of international humanitarian law were individually responsible for those violations and that those in positions of authority who had failed to ensure that persons under their control complied with the relevant international instruments were accountable, together with the perpetrators.

4. In the same resolution, the General Assembly reminded, for the purpose of accountability, all States of their obligation to cooperate with the International Tribunal for the Prosecution of Persons Responsible for Serious Violations of International Humanitarian Law Committed in the Territory of the Former Yugoslavia since 1991, and it urged all States and relevant organizations to give serious consideration to the recommendations of the Special Rapporteur of the Commission on Human Rights regarding medical care and psychological assistance to victims of rape as well as to witnesses for their psychological and mental rehabilitation.

5. In conclusion, the General Assembly encouraged the Special Rapporteur to continue to pay particular attention to the use of rape as a weapon of war particularly in the Republic of Bosnia and Herzegovina, and requested the Secretary-General to submit a report on the implementation of the resolution. The present report is submitted in accordance with that request.

II. ACTION BY UNITED NATIONS BODIES OR ORGANIZATIONS

A. Commission on Human Rights

6. The Commission on Human Rights expressed its profound concern for raped and abused women in the former Yugoslavia during its sessions in 1994, 1995 and 1996. At its fifty-second session, the Commission, in its resolution 1996/71, of 23 April 1996 expressed its outrage that the abominable, deliberate and systematic practice of rape had been used as a weapon of war in Bosnia and Herzegovina, recognized that rape in the context of armed conflict constituted a war crime and called for the protection and care of rape victims, respect for

the special needs of victims of sexual violence in the investigation and prosecution of alleged violations and punishment of those responsible.

7. The Special Rapporteur of the Commission on Human Rights has remained very attentive to the issue of rape and abuse of women in the territory of the former Yugoslavia. Information on all types of human rights abuses is systematically gathered by the Human Rights Field Operation in the Former Yugoslavia and made available to the Special Rapporteur. It should be noted that, in recent months, very few allegations on abuse of women have been made.

8. In the course of 1994 and 1995, reports of rape as an instrument of war continued to be received, but the scale of such incidents, compared with 1992 and 1993, diminished. During 1996, the Special Rapporteur received some allegations of rape incidents, although it would appear prima facie that those cases do not fall within the context of systematic and concerted practices.

B. Subcommission on Prevention of Discrimination and Protection of Minorities

9. At its forty-eighth session, the Subcommission on Prevention of Discrimination and Protection of Minorities considered the preliminary report of its Special Rapporteur on the situation of systematic rape, sexual slavery and slavery-like practices during periods of armed conflict (E/CN.4/Sub.2/1996/26).

10. In her conclusions and recommendations, the Special Rapporteur stated that although a substantial body of international law relating to systematic rape, sexual slavery and slavery-like practices during war time existed, there was a need for further inquiry on how the international legal standards could be applied to prevent further violations as well as the manner in which those standards could be invoked to provide remedies for victims.

11. Furthermore, the Special Rapporteur addressed the issue of assistance and understanding to the victims of these atrocities since they suffered long-term consequences, stating that: "Reasons for reluctance to report wartime rape may include shame and social stigma, fear of awakening bad memories, fear of reprisals, a lack of trust in the judicial system and the national legislature and the belief in the absence of remedies".

C. Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees

12. The Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) has been extensively involved in providing assistance and social services in the territory of the former Yugoslavia to refugees and displaced persons affected by the conflict. UNHCR has established community-based projects, managed by non-governmental organizations, which are directed towards a general group of beneficiaries such as victims of rape and abused women.

13. The main UNHCR community project is based in Bosnia and Herzegovina and includes approximately 30 assistance centres. The others are in Croatia and the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia (Serbia and Montenegro).

14. UNHCR gives priority to all survivors of rape and abused women in the former Yugoslavia in terms of protection and assistance in the form of food distribution, shelter, non-food items, health including reproductive health care, education and community mobilization activities. The community-based programmes in Bosnia and Herzegovina include psychological support and counselling services.

15. Particular projects supported by UNHCR in Bosnia and Herzegovina through local non-governmental organizations are:

(a) "Zena", presently run by Bosnian women implementing occupational and income generating activities with war traumatized/displaced women and female ex-detainees in East Mostar and Celebici;

(b) "Zena 21", also run by Bosnian women, operates a 24-hour emergency telephone line offering immediate professional psychological assistance to persons in distress in the Sarajevo vicinity;

(c) "Stope Nade" is the local counterpart of the international non-governmental organization "Marie Stopes International". It runs women's support centres in Bihac, Sarajevo, southern Bosnia and western Herzegovina and offers occupational and therapeutic activities for survivors of rape;

(d) "Bosfam" directs eight women's centres in the Tuzla area. It offers counselling to rape survivors;

(e) "Plavi Most" provides community-based home visiting services to families with one or more members who are survivors of physical violence and rape.

16. UNHCR has been provided with $5 million by the Government of the United States of America to operate a project for Bosnian women. This initiative includes micro-credit programmes, micro-enterprise development, psycho-social support, child and elderly care and support for women survivors of violence so as to enable them to engage in much-needed income generating activities and to participate in the reconstruction and revitalization of the economy of Bosnia. The project also seeks to discourage migration of rural women to urban centres.

17. In 1995, UNHCR published guidelines on prevention and response to sexual violence against refugees and guidelines on evaluation and care of victims of trauma and violence. The guidelines are designed to assist the international community and field staff to understand how sexual violence can be prevented and suggests numerous measures involving educational training.

D. International Tribunal for the Prosecution of Persons Responsible for Serious Violations of International Humanitarian Law Committed in the Territory of the Former Yugoslavia since 1991

18. The International Tribunal was established by the Security Council in its resolution 808 (1993) of 22 February 1993. It is mandated to prosecute serious violations of humanitarian law perpetrated in the former Yugoslavia since January 1991.

19. In accordance with the Statute, the Office of the Prosecutor is requested, in pursuance of its articles 2 to 5, to investigate and prosecute sexual assaults as serious violations of international humanitarian law. This mandate is underlined by paragraph 11 of the Secretary-General's report in response to paragraph 2 of Security Council resolution 808 (1993) (S/25704), in which the Secretary-General recalled that the Security Council had condemned "the practice of 'ethnic cleansing' and the massive, organized and systematic detention and rape of women, and reaffirmed that those who commit or have committed or order or have ordered the commission of such acts will be held individually responsible in respect of such acts". Furthermore, article 5 (g) of the Tribunal's Statute includes rape as a crime against humanity.

20. The Office of the Prosecutor is currently undertaking investigations into serious violations of humanitarian law committed in the former Yugoslavia, specifically sexual assaults. These investigations cover sexual assaults perpetrated against women, men or minors during military take-overs in detention centres and camps.

21. On 26 June 1996, the International Tribunal issued an indictment against Dragan Gagovic. This case is of major legal significance since it is the first indictment dealing specifically with sexual offences.

22. In accordance with the information provided by the International Criminal Tribunal, 22 per cent of all counts charged by the Office of the Prosecutor concerned sexual assaults; 41 per cent of those indicted by the Office of the Prosecutor have been charged inter alia with sexual assaults; 50 per cent of all persons in positions of superior authority indicted by the Office of the Prosecutor have been charged with sexual assaults committed by their subordinates; and 18 per cent of all persons in position of superior authority indicted by the Office of the Prosecutor have been individually charged for sexual assault.

23. Since its inception, the Office of the Prosecutor has taken several measures related to the presence of female staff at the International Tribunal. In this regard, the appointment of a Legal Adviser for Gender Issues to oversee the implementation of its gender policy and the prosecution of sex related crimes should be mentioned. Furthermore, the establishment of gender investigation teams, including those specifically formed to look into sexual assault, should also be mentioned as a part of the overall prosecution strategy.

24. In resolution 50/192, the General Assembly stressed the need for protection of victims and witnesses of such cases. The Office of the Prosecutor, in

accordance with the Statute of the International Tribunal, is concerned with protecting the identity of victims of sexual assault for reasons of safety and privacy. Consequently, a Victims and Witnesses Unit was established by the International Tribunal pursuant to article 22 of the Statute and rule 34 of the Rules of Procedures and Evidence. Its main responsibility is to recommend measures for the protection of victims and witnesses who will be heard by the International Tribunal and provides such persons with counselling and support.

25. It has been decided that, in the area of protection, the judges of the International Tribunal can grant special measures in and outside the courtroom both before and during a trial to protect witnesses who satisfy the judges that they and/or their family are at risk because of their testimony. These special measures, which have to be consistent with the rights of the accused, are set out in articles 69, 75 and 79 of the Rules of Procedure and Evidence of the Tribunal. They have been implemented in several decisions of the Trial Chamber granting protection to witnesses.

26. The Trial Chamber may order:

(a) That the identity of a witness may not be disclosed to the public and the media. In this case, a witness may be given a pseudonym, which will be used in all trial proceedings and when the trial is being discussed by all parties;

(b) The name of the witness can be removed from all existing court documents;

(c) The name, address and whereabouts and other information that may identify a witness can be withheld from the public and the media;

(d) This identifying information can be sealed and not included in any of the Public Records of the International Tribunal;

(e) The public and the media can be ordered not to photograph, video record or sketch a witness while he/she is at the International Tribunal;

(f) Voice and image altering devices can be used to change the appearance of a witness on court television screens and/or the sound of the voice of a witness, and screens can be placed around a witness so that he/she is not recognized by the general public;

(g) A witness may be permitted to give evidence in camera. Therefore, the court sessions are closed to the public and only the accused, the judges, lawyers and court officials are present in the courtroom;

(h) For vulnerable witnesses, such as in a case of sexual assault, evidence may be provided from a separate room at the court, through a one-way closed television circuit, to spare a witness from having to see the accused. Under these circumstances, the judge is in a position to see the faces of the witness on a television screen placed on his/her desk and the witness is able to follow the proceedings in the courtroom;

(i) In highly exceptional circumstances, a witness may be granted anonymity, and the name and other identifying data may be withheld from the accused and his/her lawyer;

(j) In exceptional circumstances, a witness may be able to give evidence before the start of the trial by way of deposition (article 71 of the Rules of Procedures and Evidence of the Tribunal). Therefore, the witness does not have to travel to The Hague but can be questioned somewhere else by the Tribunal lawyers. The witnesses may also be cross-examined under the same procedure. The proceedings will be recorded, at least on audio tape;

(k) During a trial, a witness may in exceptional circumstances, give evidence in his/her own country by way of a live video link, called "video conference". In this case the judges will be able to examine the witness, in addition to lawyers for the defence and prosecution;

(l) Many of the measures stated above have already been implemented. On 10 August 1995, the Trial Chamber agreed that the situation of a number of witnesses in the International Tribunal's first trial - the case of Dusko Tadic - called for the imposition of special protective measures. Special measures to protect witnesses cannot be applied unless ordered by the Trial Chamber. A witness, the lawyer for the case, or the Victims and Witnesses Unit can apply to the court giving specific reasons why any of these measures are required for the protection of a witness;

(m) The Victims and Witnesses Unit has a permanent position of a protection officer, who is responsible to coordinate responses to witness security requirements. The current Protection Officer is a former police officer who has had many years of experience in witness protection at the international level;

(n) Security of a witness while in the Netherlands is the responsibility of the Government of the Netherlands, and experience has shown that, where necessary, very high-level and competent local police protection must be provided;

(o) Security for a witness within the International Tribunal is a United Nations responsibility and is provided by the security officers employed by the International Tribunal;

(p) When necessary, a witness is collected from the airport and directed to his/her accommodations by the Victims and Witnesses Unit staff. Each accommodation site has been carefully checked and it receives a 24-hour attention from the authorities of the Netherlands;

(q) Where the safety of a witness travelling to the International Tribunal gives rise for concern, local police of the country of residence are requested, through governmental channels when necessary, to ensure that adequate protection and assistance is provided to the witness travelling to the International Tribunal. To that end, the Victims and Witnesses Unit has compiled a network of contacts in countries where witnesses reside. This network can also be called

upon if a witness fears security problems on his/her return to the country of residence;

(r) Negotiations are currently in process to facilitate the temporary or permanent relocation of witnesses;

(s) The Victims and Witnesses Unit provides a Support Officer to assist the witnesses while they are in the Netherlands;

(t) This programme of support includes:

(i) Coordination of arrangements to ensure that all witnesses are equipped with adequate documentation to travel to the Netherlands and to re-enter their country of residence;

(ii) Provision of health and travel insurance for all witnesses attending the proceedings of the Tribunal;

(iii) Accommodations, where the Victims and Witnesses Unit provides a 24-hour support programme;

(iv) An induction programme to the mechanics of the Court and a video showing an actual court session.

III. RESPONSE OF NON-UNITED NATIONS ACTORS

A. International Committee of the Red Cross

27. The International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) is confined in its activities, as far as this matter is concerned, to the provision of emergency aid to people caught in situations of armed conflict. Consequently, ICRC has established programmes for immediate assistance, such as hospitals with surgical supplies and basic medicines, but is not involved in psychological treatment programmes, whether for rape victims or otherwise.

B. European Community Task Force

28. The European Community Task Force, established in October 1992, coordinates food, medical and other assistance, including activities related to psychological and social help.

29. The European Community supports 22 international psychological and social assistance organizations, which include programmes for traumatized children and women in the region of Bihac and in Sarajevo, Mostar and Tuzla. Projects for victims of war have also been implemented in Eastern Slavonia, the southern Dalmatian Coast and Zagreb.

30. The European Community Task Force has prepared a manual entitled "Theory and Practice of Psycho-social Projects under War Conditions in Bosnia and Herzegovina and Croatia".

IV. CONCLUDING REMARKS

31. From the information available, only sporadic cases of rape and sexual violence have occurred since the last report of the Secretary-General (A/50/329). It would appear prima facie that those cases do not fall within the context of systematic and concerted practices.

32. It must be kept in mind, however, that reports of sexual assault are difficult to obtain in view of the victims' reluctance to describe such experiences since they implicitly carry with them social stigma and fear of reprisals.

33. Although the international community has responded to the need for investigation, continuing attention must be given to preventive and curative measures. Since the situation in many parts of former Yugoslavia remains unstable, it will be necessary for the international community to remain vigilant and to implement special protective measures for women and children. Programmes of protection and assistance for victims and witnesses must be strengthened in order to build confidence for the future.

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HUMAN RIGHTS QUESTIONS: HUMAN RIGHTS QUESTIONS, INCLUDING ALTERNATIVE APPROACHES FOR IMPROVING THE EFFECTIVE ENJOYMENT OF HUMAN RIGHTS AND FUNDAMENTAL FREEDOMS

Development of public information activities in the field of human rights, including the World Public Information Campaign on Human Rights

Report of the Secretary-General

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I. INTRODUCTION

1. In its resolution 49/187 of 23 December 1994, the General Assembly reaffirmed that activities to improve public knowledge in the field of human rights were essential to the fulfilment of the purposes of the United Nations set out in Article 1, paragraph 3, of the Charter, and that carefully designed programmes of teaching, education and information were essential to the achievement of lasting respect for human rights and fundamental freedoms. It also recognized the catalytic effect of initiatives of the United Nations on national and regional public information activities in the field of human rights.

2. The World Public Information Campaign for Human Rights was launched by the General Assembly in its resolution 43/128 of 8 December 1988, with the objectives of increasing understanding and awareness of human rights and fundamental freedoms and educating the public on the international machinery available for the promotion and protection of those rights and freedoms and the efforts of the United Nations to realize them.

3. In resolution 49/187, the General Assembly requested the Secretary-General to submit to it at its fifty-first session a comprehensive report on the implementation of that resolution for consideration under the item entitled "Human rights questions". The present report is submitted in accordance with that request and contains information relating to the activities of the High Commissioner for Human Rights/Centre for Human Rights and the Department of Public Information.

4. The coordination of the United Nations education and public information programmes in the field of human rights was specifically mentioned in General Assembly resolution 48/141 of 20 December 1993, as part of the mandate of the thereby created post of the High Commissioner for Human Rights. The High Commissioner for Human Rights has repeatedly stressed the importance he attaches to the implementation of activities for increasing the awareness of human rights among the general public. In the context of the restructuring of the High Commissioner for Human Rights/Centre for Human Rights (HCHR/CHR), great emphasis is being placed on the setting up of a communication policy that would enable all partners within and outside the United Nations to be kept informed on an appropriate and regular basis of the activities undertaken by the HCHR/CHR.

5. The United Nations High Commissioner was asked by the General Assembly to coordinate the implementation of the Plan of Action for the United Nations Decade for Human Rights Education, beginning on 1 January 1995, proclaimed by the same body in its resolution 49/184 of 23 December 1994. The Plan of Action for the Decade focuses on stimulating and supporting local and national activities in human rights education and, in certain cases, takes over some activities previously initiated in the context of the World Public Information Campaign for Human Rights. In order to avoid repetition, an account of the activities undertaken by the High Commissioner for Human Rights/Centre for Human Rights under the Decade is given in the report of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights on the implementation of the United Nations Decade

for Human Rights Education transmitted by the Secretary-General to the General Assembly (A/51/506).

II. PUBLIC INFORMATION ACTIVITIES OF THE HIGH COMMISSIONER FOR HUMAN RIGHTS/CENTRE FOR HUMAN RIGHTS

A. Publications programme

6. In resolution 49/187 the General Assembly requested the High Commissioner for Human Rights/Centre for Human Rights (HCHR/CHR), in cooperation with the Department of Public Information, to finalize a comprehensive review of the programme of information and publications in the field of human rights and encouraged the HCHR/CHR to continue its efforts towards streamlining and focusing its publications programme.

7. In keeping with that directive, and in the context of its restructuring process, the High Commissioner for Human Rights/Centre for Human Rights is giving priority to strengthening and making more effective its publications programme. For this reason, a revision of the publications programme is being undertaken in order to clearly establish a publications policy, giving priority to the need to disseminate widely information about activities and plans of the HCHR/CHR. This revision also aims, to the extent possible, at replacing publications in paper form by various electronic forms. In this regard, and as part of the United Nations Secretariat, the HCHR/CHR will consider carefully the conclusions and recommendations of the comprehensive survey of publications undertaken by the Joint Inspection Unit at the request of the General Assembly in its resolution 50/206 of 23 December 1995. The HCHR/CHR has recently made its contribution to this survey by completing and submitting the questionnaire designed by the Joint Inspection Unit.

8. Since the last report, the High Commissioner for Human Rights/Centre for Human Rights has received around 3,000 letters from individuals, Governments, academic institutions, non-governmental organizations and other human rights institutions requesting human rights publications. As requested by the directives received from the Office of Conference Services at Headquarters regarding the need to drastically reduce distribution of documents and publications, the mailing list of the High Commissioner for Human Rights/Centre for Human Rights has been reviewed accordingly. Priority has been given to institutions active in the field of human rights, whereas individual recipients are as limited as possible.

9. An account of the activities undertaken in relation to the translation of regional and local language versions of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights is given in the report of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights on the implementation of the United Nations Decade for Human Rights Education submitted by the Secretary-General to the General Assembly.

10. The HCHR/CHR also contributed substantially during the reporting period to the preparation of the general United Nations publications, such as The United Nations and Human Rights, 1945-1995.

1. Fact Sheet series

11. The Fact Sheet series consists of booklets directed at a non-specialized audience, addressing various aspects of United Nations activities in the field of human rights, including international mechanisms for the promotion and protection of human rights, or specific human rights issues. Fact Sheets are published in the six official languages of the United Nations and distributed worldwide free of charge.

12. Since the last report to the General Assembly, four new Fact Sheets have been issued: No. 22 (Discrimination against Women: The Convention and the Committee) in all United Nations official languages; No. 23 (Harmful Traditional Practices Affecting the Health of Women and Children) in Arabic, Chinese, English and Russian; No. 24 (The Rights of Migrant Workers) and No. 25 (Forced Evictions and Human Rights) in English only pending further translation. Fact Sheet No. 21 (The Human Right to Adequate Housing) is now being translated into Chinese, French, Russian and Spanish. New issues on arbitrary detention and the mandate of the High Commissioner for Human Rights are in preparation.

13. Special attention has been paid during this period to the revision and updating of existing issues. In this regard, revised versions of Fact Sheets No. 2 (The International Bill of Human Rights), No. 3 (Advisory Services and Technical Cooperation in the Field of Human Rights) and No. 16 (The Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights) have already been published and several others, including those of Fact Sheet No. 10 (The Rights of the Child), No. 9 (The Rights of Indigenous Peoples) and the second revision of Fact Sheet No. 6 (Enforced or Involuntary Disappearances) are now being edited. Fact Sheet No. 1 (Human Rights Machinery) has also been updated but the text is on hold pending the outcome of the restructuring process currently undergone by the High Commissioner for Human Rights/Centre for Human Rights.

14. Owing to increased demand, several Fact Sheets have been reprinted, including No. 4 (Methods of Combating Torture) in English and French; No. 11 (Summary or Arbitrary Executions) in Arabic, French and Spanish; No. 7 (Communications Procedures) in French; No. 12 (The Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination) in French; No. 13 (International Humanitarian Law and Human Rights) in Chinese and French; No. 14 (Contemporary Forms of Slavery) in English and French; No. 17 (The Committee against Torture) in French; No. 18 (Minority Rights) in French; No. 19 (National Institutions for the Promotion and Protection of Human Rights) in Arabic, Chinese, English and French; and No. 21 (The Human Right to Adequate Housing) in Arabic, Chinese, English, Russian and Spanish.

15. The High Commissioner for Human Rights/Centre for Human Rights has the intention of putting the whole text - first in English and eventually in French and Spanish - of all Fact Sheets in the Centre's home page on the Internet once available. This development will enhance the wide dissemination of these publications, while contributing to reduce print runs and rationalize expenses. The complete list of Fact Sheets is contained in the annex.

2. Professional Training Series

16. An important teaching and educational tool is the established Professional Training Series, designed primarily to provide support to the training activities of the programme of advisory services and technical assistance of the High Commissioner for Human Rights/Centre for Human Rights, as well as to assist other organizations involved in human rights education for professional groups.

17. The most recent development in this area has been the close cooperation established with the International Training Centre of the International Labour Organization in Turin, Italy, to make the training manuals a more pedagogical tool. Cooperation has included the design and production of new and revised materials, as well as the organization of pilot courses to test the products. As a result of this collaboration the HCHR/CHR has undertaken the revision and updating of the Manual on Human Rights Reporting, which has now been developed into a training package composed of four distinctive elements: the manual, a trainer's guide and its annexes, including training tools, and a pocket guide for participants. Similar packages will be developed for the training manuals now under preparation.

18. Since the last report a new handbook on National Institutions for the Protection and Promotion of Human Rights, No. 4 in the series, has been published in English, Russian and Spanish and will be soon available in French. The fifth publication in the series, Human Rights for Law Enforcement Officials and its pocket guide are now being printed.

19. During the same period previous issues of the series have been translated into other official languages, including No. 1 (Human Rights and Social Work: A Manual for Schools of Social Work and the Social Work Profession) into Arabic, Russian and Spanish; No. 2 (Human Rights and Elections: A Handbook on the Legal, Technical and Human Rights Aspects of Elections) into Arabic, French, Russian and Spanish; and No. 3 (Human Rights and Pre-Trial Detention: A Handbook on International Standards related to Pre-Trial Detention) into French, Russian and Spanish.

20. Two further manuals, one for military officials and one for peacekeeping officials, have already been tested in pilot-training courses and are now being finalized. In the context of the Programme of Action for the United Nations Decade for Human Rights Education and in cooperation with relevant experts and organizations, the High Commissioner for Human Rights/Centre for Human Rights has envisaged the preparation and publication of six new training manuals - for prison officers, primary and secondary school teachers, legal professionals, national and local non-governmental organizations, mass media and for monitoring - and three handbooks on human rights and conflict resolution, human rights and parliament, and human rights and constitutions. More detailed information on these developments is given in the report of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights on the implementation of the United Nations Decade for Human Rights Education submitted by the Secretary-General to the General Assembly.

21. As a part of the contribution of the High Commissioner for Human Rights to the international operation in the former Yugoslavia, the High Commissioner for

Human Rights/Centre for Human Rights published a Field Guide for International Police Task Force Monitors of the Peace Implementation Operation in Bosnia and Herzegovina and CIVPOL Officers of the United Nations Transitional Administration in Eastern Slavonia. Although not part of the training manual series, this publication, which was designed to fulfil the specific needs of the human rights training programme for international police task force and civilian police monitors in the former Yugoslavia, is a good example of the capacity and flexibility of the High Commissioner for Human Rights/Centre for Human Rights to prepare human rights training tools directed to specific target audiences.

3. Human Rights Study Series

22. The Human Rights Study Series reproduces studies and reports on important human rights issues prepared by experts of the Commission on Human Rights and the Subcommission on Prevention of Discrimination and Protection of Minorities. Eight studies in the series have been published so far (see annex). Since the last report to the General Assembly two new Study Series have been issued: Study Series No. 7 (The Right to Adequate Housing) in Arabic, Chinese, English, French and Russian, and Study Series No. 8 (Sexual Exploitation of Children) in English only, pending further translation. The Compilation and Analysis of Legal Norms Applicable to Internally Displaced Persons, which will be No. 9 of the Series, is now being edited.

4. Ad hoc publications

23. Ad hoc publications consist mainly of reports and proceedings of conferences, workshops and other events held under the auspices of the High Commissioner for Human Rights/Centre for Human Rights. There are now 17 titles on the series (see annex). The report of the Fourth Workshop on Regional Human Rights Arrangements in the Asian and Pacific Region is being edited.

5. Reference material

24. The reference publications of the High Commissioner for Human Rights/Centre for Human Rights, which are United Nations sales publications, are directed at a more specialized audience. They include:

(a) United Nations Action in the Field of Human Rights, which appears every five years, is the standard United Nations reference work in the field of human rights. The last issue, covering the period 1989 to 1993, is available in English and French;

(b) Human Rights: A Compilation of International Instruments contains the texts of the basic international instruments in the field of human rights. The publication consists of two volumes, each divided into two parts. Volume I, containing the universal instruments, has been published in all six official languages. Volume II, a multilingual publication which reproduces the regional instruments in their original languages, is now being updated;

(c) Human Rights International Instruments: Chart of Ratifications. Two issues of this periodical appeared in 1995 and one in 1996. The current issued contains information updated to 30 June 1996;

(d) Human Rights: Status of International Instruments includes detailed information on ratifications, reservations, objections and declarations in relation to the human rights instruments contained in the Compilation as of 1 September 1987. An updated version of the Status of International Instruments is being prepared and will be published next year;

(e) The Yearbook on Human Rights has been discontinued until a more careful revision of its role and contents is undertaken and adequate resources assigned for its timely production;

(f) Official Records of the Human Rights Committee (formerly Yearbook of the Human Rights Committee) is available in English and French up to the 1983-1984 issue, as is volume I of the 1985-1986 issue. Volume I of the 1987 issue and volume I of the 1987-1988 issues are available only in English. Since the last report to the General Assembly, the English versions of volume II of the 1985-1986, 1987 and 1987-1988 issues have been published, as well as volumes I and II of the 1988-1989 and 1989-1990 issues, and volume I of the 1990-1991 issue;

(g) Human Rights Committee, Selected Decisions under the Optional Protocol. Volume I, Second to Sixteenth Sessions is out of stock; volume II, Seventeenth to Thirty-second Sessions, is available in Spanish; the English version is out of stock and only a few copies of the French version are still available. A reprint of volume I and of the English and French versions of volume II would be highly desirable if the necessary resources are made available. A compilation of volume III of the Selected Decisions is under preparation.

6. New publications

25. The High Commissioner for Human Rights/Centre for Human Rights is preparing a new series of publications entitled "Notes of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights", which has already been approved by the Working Committee of the Publications Board. The series aims at fulfilling the mandate of the High Commissioner for Human Rights as coordinator of the United Nations Human Rights Programme, as well as to encourage debate on the aspects of the programme falling under his direct mandate. The series fills a real gap on the human-rights publications programme and has been designed to be composed of three parts: a short introduction to the subject under debate, a personal interview with the High Commissioner for Human Rights on the issue and an annex with a list of the major relevant documents and resolutions. The first issue of the series, The High Commissioner for Human Rights: An Introduction, is now being printed.

7. Periodicals

26. The decision to discontinue the publication of the Human Rights Newsletter, in 1992, and the Bulletin of Human Rights, in 1993, as a result of the revision of the information programme and in view of the lack of personnel available for their production, left the High Commissioner for Human Rights/Centre for Human Rights with no external periodicals. To fill this gap, in November 1995 the High Commissioner's office started to produce internally the High Commissioner News, a four-page monthly publication on the activities of the High Commissioner for Human Rights/Centre for Human Rights distributed to all those included in the mailing list for the United Nations human rights publications. It is now envisaged to transform this four-page periodical into a professional quarterly publication of around 20 pages long, in order to better inform a wider human-rights community.

B. Use of electronic means

27. The need to rationalize expenses and, therefore, to maximize the impact of information and educational tools necessarily places electronic means at the core of any future information programme of the High Commissioner for Human Rights/Centre for Human Rights. The pertinence of replacing publications in paper form by other electronic forms is to be carefully analyzed in the context of the revision of the information and publications programme. Since the last report to the General Assembly some achievements have been made in this important domain.

28. A majority of staff members have access to United Nations e-mail which enables correspondence with New York and other United Nations offices. In addition to internal United Nations e-mail, Internet addresses have been provided to all those connected to the Central Local Area Network (LAN) enabling full communication with anyone who is a participant of the Internet throughout the world. Two thirds of staff members have full Internet access. These developments have improved access to the High Commissioner for Human Rights/Centre for Human Rights, facilitating not only the dissemination of information but also the reception of requests.

29. An Internet Committee was established to make recommendations on the content and structure of the information to be presented on the Internet. Based on the recommendations of the Committee a Web site prototype for the High Commissioner for Human Rights/Centre for Human Rights was designed. Information is now being included in the prototype which is expected to become operational before the end of the year.

30. The High Commissioner for Human Rights/Centre for Human Rights has developed a full-text information retrieval and database system for the treaty bodies which at present contains mainly information concerning the Committee on the Rights of the Child. The time-frame in which the system will become operational for all treaty bodies depends on the availability of resources for data entry and downloading of full-text documents. Despite various resolutions of the Commission on Human Rights, the Economic and Social Council and the General Assembly inviting States Members to make one-time contributions for the

establishment of the database, as of 1 July 1996, only US$ 111,643 have been received of the total 1990 estimated cost, US$ 508,500. The system is currently used by staff of the High Commissioner for Human Rights/Centre for Human Rights and members of the Committee on the Rights of the Child who have been equipped with laptop computers. Access to the database has also been granted to UNICEF. The bulk of the information contained on it will be linked to the Web site.

31. A CD-ROM containing 14,000 bibliographical references to United Nations documents and publications from 1980 to 1994 and the full text of 95 international instruments was produced by the United Nations Library in Geneva in cooperation with the High Commissioner for Human Rights/Centre for Human Rights. An updated version of this CD-ROM is being prepared by the Library but has not been produced yet due to lack of financial resources.

C. External relations programme

1. Briefings

32. The High Commissioner for Human Rights/Centre for Human Rights (HCHR/CHR) organizes briefings on United Nations activities in the field of human rights and on specific human rights issues for students, diplomats, journalists, public officials, professors and non-governmental organizations. The HCHR/CHR also provides lectures for the briefings organized by the Department of Public Information. More than 100 such briefings were delivered by officers of the Centre during the reporting period.

2. Exhibitions and human rights observances

33. The High Commissioner for Human Rights/Centre for Human Rights participated in an Open House day organized at the Palais des Nations on 15 October 1995 as part of the activities to commemorate the fiftieth anniversary of the United Nations. The High Commissioner for Human Rights participated in a round table on the future of the United Nations, while the High Commissioner for Human Rights/Centre for Human Rights displayed stands with its publications and presented a live musical based on the Universal Declaration of Human Rights. Also in the context of the commemoration of the fiftieth anniversary of the United Nations, the High Commissioner for Human Rights organized a high-level human rights forum in New York on 25 October 1995. In a first panel entitled "The United Nations Human Rights Agenda: The Next Fifty Years", a group of world leaders discussed the status of human rights. The second panel gathered senior United Nations officials on the topic "Women's Rights as Human Rights".

34. On the occasion of the celebration of Human Rights Day, on 10 December 1995, the High Commissioner for Human Rights/Centre for Human Rights, in cooperation with the Department of Public Information, organized a round table on the subject: "Is tolerance a sufficient condition for the respect of human rights?" in which members of the international community representing five different cultural areas of the world participated. The Assistant Secretary-General for Human Rights acted as moderator. The round table was preceded and followed by two dancing spectacles.

35. In connection with the International Day for the Elimination of Racial Discrimination, on 21 March 1995, an art exhibition was displayed at the Palais des Nations. In 1996, and on the same occasion, the High Commissioner for Human Rights/Centre for Human Rights organized a round table on "Racism at the Eve of the XXIst Century" with the participation of the Assistant Secretary-General for Human Rights and the Chairman of the Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination. An account of the activities undertaken in the context of the Third Decade to Combat Racism and Racial Discrimination is given in the report of the Secretary-General to the Commission on Human Rights (E/CN.4/1996/71).

36. On 9 August 1996, in the context of the celebration of the International Day of the World's Indigenous People, a round-table discussion on the issue of "Health and indigenous peoples" was held with the participation of the Chairperson of the Working Group on Indigenous Populations.

3. Fellowship programme

37. The General Assembly made direct provision for the human rights fellowship programme in its resolution 926 (X) of 14 December 1955. Under the terms of that resolution, assistance provided by the Secretary-General is to be rendered in agreement with Governments on the basis of their requests. Fellowships are awarded only to candidates nominated by their Governments, and are financed under the regular budget for advisory services. Every year the Secretary-General sends out invitations to Member States to submit nominations. Governments are reminded that nominees should be directly involved in functions affecting human rights, such as the administration of justice, or in the implementation of international human rights instruments at the national level. The Secretary-General also draws their attention to concerns expressed by the General Assembly, in many of its resolutions, with respect to the rights of women, and encourages the nomination of women candidates.

38. During the reporting period, there has been a substantial increase in interest in the fellowship programme, on the part of many countries. In 1995, a particularly large number of applications for fellowships was received. Indeed, applications have tripled over the past three years, making the selection procedure extremely competitive. For 1995, 79 Governments nominated 169 candidates, of whom 29 were selected, 13 of them women. The Secretary-General has attempted within limits of the available resources, to ensure a broad distribution of the fellowships among the nationalities of the applicants, with priority being given, inter alia, to applicants from developing countries, taking into consideration the allocation of a fair share to women, in conformity with relevant General Assembly resolutions.

39. Following the conclusion of the 1993 fellowship programme, the High Commissioner for Human Rights/Centre for Human Rights conducted a comprehensive evaluation, which resulted in the elaboration of a plan for the programme's revision. Among the changes adopted for subsequent fellowship programmes was the decision to hold the next sessions at the International Labour Organization's training centre at Turin, Italy, and to devote the programme to reporting under international human-rights institutions.

4. Internship programme

40. During the reporting period, the High Commissioner for Human Rights/Centre for Human Rights (HCHR/CHR) offered some 80 internships to graduate students to enable them to gain first-hand knowledge of United Nations actions and procedures in the field of human rights, through active participation in the work of the Centre under the direct supervision of its staff members. The HCHR/CHR offers a unique experience in the field of the protection of human rights and an inside look at the United Nations human rights machinery. The internship programme has also proved to be beneficial to the HCHR/CHR, easing the normally overloaded Professional's day-by-day work. The internship does not consist of a predefined programme and interns are placed according to the needs of the HCHR/CHR and to their area of interest.

41. No funding has been available for the programme, internships being awarded without financial commitment of any kind on the part of the HCHR/CHR or the United Nations bodies. This lack of funds to support interns has resulted in particularly low participation by students from developing countries (some 90 per cent of the interns come from developed countries). The need for funding of interns from developing countries remains an important consideration.

42. In 1996 the HCHR/CHR's internship programme went through a serious revision. The maximum number of interns at a particular time has been fixed to 46 and particular attention is devoted to a fair geographical representation. It was decided that candidates to the internship programme should have at least a BA degree or a "licence" in a discipline such as international law, political science, history or social sciences. Good command of at least two of the six United Nations official languages and drafting ability in either English or French is necessary. In any case, preference is given to those candidates with specific human rights background. The duration of an internship has now been established from three to six months. Interns are recruited in October, for the period from January to June, and in March, for the period from July to December.

5. Training courses and other technical cooperation activities with a public information element

43. An account of the training courses, seminars and workshops organized by the High Commissioner for Human Rights/Centre for Human Rights is given in the report of the Secretary-General to the Commission on Human Rights on advisory services in the field of human rights (E/CN.4/1996/90).

D. Coordination and cooperation within and outside the United Nations

44. In paragraph 14 of its resolution 49/187, the General Assembly called upon the High Commissioner for Human Rights/Centre for Human Rights to coordinate the substantive activities of the World Public Information Campaign for Human Rights pursuant to the direction of the General Assembly and the Commission on Human Rights, and to serve as liaison with Governments, regional and national institutions, non-governmental organizations and concerned individuals in the

development and implementation of the activities of the Campaign. In paragraph 13, it also called upon the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights to coordinate and harmonize human rights information strategies within the United Nations system.

1. Inter-agency cooperation

45. As part of its ongoing efforts to coordinate its activities with those of other United Nations bodies and in keeping with the terms of General Assembly resolution 47/128, the High Commissioner for Human Rights/Centre for Human Rights (HCHR/CHR) convenes each year in Geneva an inter-agency meeting on human rights issues. These meetings allow participants to review joint projects and to exchange information on a number of ongoing activities in the field of human rights carried out by the respective organizations. They also provide an opportunity to identify further forms of cooperation between the HCHR/CHR and the organizations concerned. Information, documentation and education in the field of human rights is one of the items on the agenda of these meetings.

46. In implementing its publications programme, the HCHR/CHR cooperates with other bodies and organizations of the United Nations system, and with non-governmental organizations. Examples of this cooperation are the manuals on human rights training for law-enforcement officials; the Fact Sheets on discrimination against women and on human rights and migrant workers were both submitted to the relevant agencies for comments.

47. The High Commissioner for Human Rights/Centre for Human Rights actively participated with other bodies and agencies of the United Nations system in the preparation and celebration of the Fourth World Conference on Women, held in Beijing in September 1995, and the Second United Nations Conference on Human Settlements (Habitat II), held in Istanbul in June 1996. The main objective of the HCHR/CHR in both World Conferences was to safeguard the human rights language accepted at the United Nations World Conference on Human Rights, held in Vienna in June 1993, and the adherence of the final documents to the established human rights standards. This objective was in both cases accomplished. During the World Conference on Women, the High Commissioner for Human Rights distributed a paper with his comments on the Draft Platform for Action and staff members of the High Commissioner for Human Rights/Centre for Human Rights participated in a panel discussion organized by CEDAW and UNIFEM entitled "Dialogue on CEDAW". The High Commissioner for Human Rights/Centre for Human Rights also took part, and continues to do so, in the inter-agency meetings on women, including those devoted to the drafting of a system-wide medium-term plan for the advancement of women.

48. In the case of Habitat II, the High Commissioner for Human Rights/Centre for Human Rights, together with the Centre for Human Settlements organized in January 1996 an Expert Group Meeting on the Human Right to Adequate Housing which was held in Geneva in preparation for the World Conference. A paper containing the comments of the High Commissioner for Human Rights on the Habitat Agenda was distributed at the third and last session of the Preparatory Committee of the Conference. During the Conference, in the context of inter-agency coordination for the follow-up to the Habitat Agenda, the High

Commissioner for Human Rights/Centre for Human Rights made a presentation on the strategy for the implementation of the human rights aspects contained in the Agenda and organized two round tables, one on "The Human Right to Adequate Housing" and another one on "Indigenous people, shelter and land", which were chaired by the High Commissioner for Human Rights and the Assistant Secretary-General for Human Rights, respectively.

2. Non-governmental organizations

49. Non-governmental organizations continue to cooperate actively with the United Nations bodies dealing with human rights, providing them with information and expertise. They also contribute effectively to the implementation of the activities of the World Campaign, especially in the areas of information, education and dissemination of United Nations materials and publications. The General Assembly made reference to the valuable action of non-governmental organizations in paragraph 13 of resolution 49/187, in which it requested the Secretary-General to take advantage, as much as possible, of the collaboration of non-governmental organizations in the implementation of the World Public Information Campaign for Human Rights, including in the dissemination of human rights materials.

50. Some 8,000 letters have been received by the High Commissioner for Human Rights/Centre for Human Rights (HCHR/CHR) during 1995 and 1996 from non-governmental organizations throughout the world, requesting publications, information and participation by the Centre in various events (seminars, workshops, conferences, celebrations). These letters were replied to individually and the requested information provided. Some of the letters contained requests to be included on the mailing list for information on human rights or documents of the Commission and the Subcommission on Prevention of Discrimination and Protection of Minorities.

51. After the World Conference on Human Rights, a non-governmental organizations liaison officer has been appointed within the High Commissioner for Human Rights/Centre for Human Rights to improve communications between the HCHR/CHR and non-governmental organizations, including the organization of briefings and the development of a database on worldwide human rights non-governmental organizations.

3. Academic and research institutions

52. The High Commissioner for Human Rights/Centre for Human Rights (HCHR/CHR) regularly cooperates with the International Institute for Human Rights at Strasbourg, France, where three staff members of the HCHR/CHR gave lectures in English, French and Spanish for a one-week period during the Institute's annual human rights courses in the summer of 1995 and 1996. Within the context of the Institute's annual human rights courses, 20 human rights fellows spend two weeks in the HCHR/CHR in order to deepen their knowledge of the United Nations system of promotion and protection of human rights.

53. The HCHR/CHR continued its cooperation with the African Commission on Human and Peoples' Rights; the Inter-American Institute of Human Rights at San José; the International Institute of Humanitarian Law at San Remo, Italy; the International Institute of Higher Studies in Criminal Sciences, at Siracussa, Italy; the Raoul Wallenberg Institute of Human Rights and Humanitarian Law at Lund, Sweden; and the Graduate Institute of International Studies at Geneva.

54. Cooperation also continued throughout 1995 and 1996 with the Arab Institute for Human Rights at Tunis and the African Centre for Democracy and Human Rights at Banjul. The HCHR/CHR also gave briefings at the request of various human rights and academic institutions, including the Liverpool Institute of Public Administration and Management (United Kingdom), the Institut des hautes études commerciales de Liège (Belgium), the Amsterdam School of International Relations and Erasmus University (Netherlands), Lund University (Sweden), the Fédération études françaises des clubs UNESCO (France), the Human Rights Institute of the University Carlos III, University Complutense, University of Barcelona and the Humanitarian Institute of Sevilla (Spain).

55. Finally, the HCHR/CHR provided a staff member to the Academy of International Law and the Netherlands Institute of Human Rights to give lectures at the training course on the international law of human rights held at The Hague.

III. DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC INFORMATION

56. As part of the Department of Public Information (DPI) mandate for information programmes and activities, it coordinates and initiates public information activities for the World Public Information Campaign for Human Rights. The Department's multimedia activities ensure the effective coverage of United Nations human rights activities as well as worldwide distribution of relevant materials on human rights. This work has special importance within the framework of the three ongoing decades: the Third Decade for the Elimination of Racism and Racial Discrimination (1993-2003), the United Nations Decade for Human Rights Education (1995-2004) and the United Nations Decade of the World's Indigenous People (1995-2004).

57. In the 1996-1997 programme budget, the Department continues its efforts under the thematic heading of human rights. It also carries out other mandated programmes in related areas such as social and economic development, the question of Palestine, self-determination, decolonization and the advancement of women. The Department's related activities are regularly reported to the General Assembly and to other intergovernmental bodies under each specific area or theme.

58. The multimedia approach of the Department in the field of human rights consists of the production of print materials such as brochures, pamphlets, backgrounders, booklets, fact sheets, feature articles, posters and information kits. These publications are distributed in official United Nations languages at Headquarters and through the network of 68 United Nations Information Centres (UNICs) and Services (UNISs), and eight United Nations Offices, as well as other channels.

59. During 1995 and 1996 major events including the World Summit for Social Development (6-13 March 1995), the fiftieth anniversary of the United Nations (1995), the Fourth World Conference on Women (4-15 September 1995), the Ninth United Nations Congress on the Prevention of Crime and the Treatment of Offenders (29 April-8 May 1995) and the Second United Nations Conference on Human Settlements (Habitat II, 3-14 June), as well as the launching of the International Decade of the World's Indigenous People (1995-2004) and of the International Decade for Human Rights Education (1995-2004), offered further opportunities to generate awareness and understanding of human rights issues and to promote the principles of respect for human rights and tolerance, as stated in the Charter of the United Nations. All these events are taking place within the context of the World Campaign on Human Rights. In addition, activities planned in conjunction with the calendar of international days, especially Human Rights Day, are used to showcase and to generate interest in the work of the United Nations in the field of human rights. In this respect, the outreach activities undertaken by the UNICs and UNISs have had a significant impact.

A. Activities in the field of human rights, January 1995 to August 1996

60. A series of backgrounders on human rights issues, intended for the use of the media, general public, non-governmental organizations, government officials, the United Nations system and educational groups continue to be produced and widely disseminated.

61. During 1995 and 1996 the Department of Public Information pursued its information campaign on human rights issues by publishing a variety of print materials:

"Challenges of Human Rights and Cultural Diversity" (DPI/1627) was issued in English (20,000 copies), French (10,000) and Spanish (10,000);

"Children's Rights" (DPI/1765); "Women and Violence" (DPI/1772) and "Independence of the Judiciary: A Human Rights Priority" (DPI/1837) were printed in English (20,000 each), French (8,000 each) and Spanish (8,000 each) and also widely distributed;

A brochure on the "United Nations and Human Rights" (DPI/1774) explaining the role of the different human rights bodies and of the High Commissioner for Human Rights was published in English (20,000), French (8,000), and Spanish (8,000), to accompany a Wall Chart on United Nations Human Rights Mechanisms (DPI/1549);

A poster on the Universal Declaration of Human Rights (DPI/1653) was printed in English (20,000), French (10,000) and Spanish (10,000) and widely distributed. Because of the great demand for this poster, DPI is considering reprinting it;

The "Vienna Declaration and Programme of Action" (DPI/1394 Rev.1) was reprinted in English, French and Spanish and continued to be distributed.

62. These materials as well as press releases, statements of the Secretary-General and United Nations documents are distributed electronically to the network of Information Centres and Services. They were also posted on the United Nations Web site on the Internet (http:\\www.un.org).

63. The next issue of Notes for Speakers, a reference tool for those making presentations about the work of the United Nations, will present a round-up on United Nations conferences. This publication includes a special section on the World Conference on Human Rights.

64. Public information on the role of the Organization and its human rights activities is also disseminated through films, radio and television programmes produced regularly by the Department. These programmes are broadcast by national radio and television stations around the world. The Department continues to produce radio documentaries on human rights as part of the regular 15-minute weekly radio series that it produces in the official languages as well as other languages such as Bangla, Dutch, French Creole, Hindi, Indonesian, Kiswahili, Portuguese and Urdu.

65. "UN in Action", a television programme produced weekly by the Department in English for CNN "World Report" (and in additional languages for wider distribution) has featured issues related to human rights in a number of programmes. The CNN programmes are broadcast in more than 120 countries. Some of the television programmes produced in 1995 and 1996 include: "The Judicial System in Rwanda", "Ghana's Free Press", "Human Rights in Guatemala" and "UN Helps with Reform of Haiti's Prisons".

66. The Department's half-hour television interview programme "World Chronicle" has featured a number of speakers such as the Executive Director of the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) on the issue of children and human rights; the High Commissioner for Human Rights, the Chairman of the Human Rights Committee, and the Chairperson of the United Nations Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women. Radio, television and print public service announcements have also been used by the Department to disseminate information about the work of the United Nations.

67. The Department has continued to organize exhibits on human rights topics; to undertake press coverage of all intergovernmental meetings on human rights at New York and Geneva; to hold press conferences and briefings, seminars, round tables and other activities to inform the media about the Organization's human rights work; and to reply to hundreds of public inquiries on human rights issues. The Department's Public Inquiries Unit and the Focal Point on Human Rights also respond to numerous requests for human rights publications. From January 1995 to August 1996 the Visitor's Service at Headquarters arranged for 116 briefings on human rights issues, including special briefings on racial discrimination and women, for a total of 8,627 persons. It also arranged for special film/video screenings for other visitors. During the same period, 627 DPI press releases in English and 594 in French were issued on human rights issues.

68. The Department continues its close cooperation and collaboration with non-governmental organizations (NGOs) and coordinates inter-agency promotional

activities. In 1995-1996 the Department covered human rights issues in several of its weekly NGO briefings at Headquarters. Each briefing attracted some 150 participants representing many non-governmental organizations that are in association with the Department and in consultative status with the Economic and Social Council.

69. Within the framework of the Decade for Human Rights Education, the Department collaborated with the Centre for Human Rights on a survey of the various language versions of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights available around the world. DPI opened its files to the Centre for Human Rights and requested all United Nations Information Centres and Services to send information on, and copies when available, of the different language versions available in their offices to the Centre for Human Rights.

70. This year DPI organized its annual training programme for young broadcasters and journalists from developing countries, from 16 September to 24 October 1996. The six-week programme introduces participants to the work of the United Nations. The journalists attended the fifty-first session of the General Assembly, to cover United Nations activities including human rights. The training programme is co-sponsored by the Friedrich Ebert Foundation. This year 18 broadcasters and journalists from Africa, Asia, the Middle East, Latin America and Eastern Europe were selected for the programme.

71. DPI also organized a Palestinian Media Practitioners Training Programme from 15 September to 8 November 1996 for 10 Palestinian journalists representing print, radio and television media.

72. Special events to observe international days or years are another means of promoting the work of the United Nations. Some of them offer special opportunity to advocate for and promote human rights. These events are organized by the Department at Headquarters and in the field by the United Nations Information Centres and Services, that undertake numerous special activities at the national and regional levels. Some of the latter activities include translating and printing the Universal Declaration of Human Rights in local languages; producing reprints and new language versions of human rights instruments; and maintaining reference collections on human rights materials in their libraries.

73. The International Year of Tolerance (1995) provided another channel for DPI public information activities in the field of human rights. A DPI backgrounder (DPI/1626) presenting the objectives of the Year was released in English (20,000 copies), French (10,000) and Spanish (10,000). A "UN in Action" television programme entitled "UNICEF Uses Puppets to Teach Tolerance in Burundi" was among other related programmes produced. The United Nations Information Centres and Services also undertook special activities.

B. Activities of Information Centres and Services

74. Because of its proximity to the Centre for Human Rights, UNIS Geneva has a special role to play in the promotion of the work of the United Nations in the field of human rights, including the activities of the High Commissioner. It

continues to cover, through print, radio and audio-visual programmes, the activities undertaken by the treaty bodies and other specialized meetings held at Geneva. Its activities also include placement in the media of opinion-editorial articles and the organization of press conferences as well as media interviews for the High Commissioner for Human Rights. The interviews have been arranged with different media organizations, including the BBC World Service (radio), BBC World Service Television, CNN, the Tribune de Genève and other newspapers such as the International Herald Tribune or El País. Press briefings as well as press conferences and interviews featuring human rights officials are held regularly at the United Nations Office at Geneva. UNIS Geneva continues to organize specific events aimed at highlighting human rights issues on international days.

75. The following information highlights a few of the main activities undertaken by selected Centres and Services from January 1995 through August 1996.

76. Bangkok. UNIS Bangkok organized, for 150 students of the Rajaphat Institute, a lecture on "Promotion, Protection, Prevention: Creating a Culture of Human Rights". In early 1996, UNIS briefed 25 students of the University of New South Wales on the work of the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP). The DPI video "New Horizons for Human Rights" was shown at the briefing.

77. Bogota. UNIC Bogota briefed 1,000 police officers at "Escuela de Policia General Santander". Information materials were distributed and the film entitled "Declaration of Human Rights" was shown to the audience.

78. Bucharest. UNIC Bucharest translated into Romanian the message of the Secretary-General for Human Rights Day and disseminated it as a press release to the media and educational institutes, among others. The message was published in several newspapers and some excerpts were read on the TV evening news.

79. Buenos Aires. UNIC Buenos Aires organized a seminar on "Inter-religious Encounter: A Prayer for Peace" to celebrate the fiftieth anniversary of the United Nations and the International Year of Tolerance. A total of 700 people representing the media and non-governmental organizations attended. For Human Rights Day, the UNIC prepared a special press kit which was distributed among media and local NGOs.

80. Dar-es-Salaam. UNIC Dar-es-Salaam arranged for the message of the Secretary-General to be broadcast on several local radio stations: Radio One, Radio Tanzania Dar-es-Salaam and Radio Tumaini. The message was also read on Independent TV and Dar-es-Salaam TV, and published in the Daily News.

81. Mexico City. UNIC Mexico City provided media information on the visit of the High Commissioner for Human Rights to Mexico this year. UNIC staff coordinated arrangements for his lecture in Queretaro. His visit was widely covered by the national media.

82. Ouagadougou. UNIC Ouagadougou provided a one-hour lecture on children's rights to 10 officers of the Ministry of Social Affairs. The United Nations video "Doctors in the Sky" was screened at the end of the lecture.

83. Tokyo. UNIC Tokyo organized jointly with the Japanese Government an international symposium and an exhibit on human rights. UNIC provided posters, photos and information materials. A total of 10,000 people from non-governmental and governmental organizations attended.

84. Windhoek. On the occasion of Human Rights Day, the Centre organized the launch of the book Human Rights Education and Advocacy in Namibia in the 1990s. The book is a report of a human rights workshop jointly organized by the University of Namibia, UNESCO and UNIC Windhoek in mid-1993. The launch was followed by a panel discussion on human rights.

85. DPI will continue to provide press, radio and television coverage of the Commission on Human Rights and the treaty bodies and to give special attention to the many human rights issues. The proclamation of the three related human rights Decades provides a unique opportunity for DPI and its partners among media and various sectors and actors in society to promote worldwide United Nations efforts in the field of human rights.

Annex

PUBLICATIONS ISSUED BY THE HIGH COMMISSIONER FOR HUMAN RIGHTS/
CENTRE FOR HUMAN RIGHTS AND AVAILABLE AS FROM SEPTEMBER 1996

FACT SHEETS

No. 1 Human Rights Machinery (on hold)

No. 2 The International Bill of Human Rights (Rev.1)

No. 3 Advisory Services and Technical Cooperation in the Field of Human Rights (Rev.1)

No. 4 Methods of Combating Torture

No. 5 Programme of Action for the Second Decade to Combat Racism and Racial Discrimination

No. 6 Enforced or Involuntary Disappearances (Rev.1)

No. 7 Communication Procedures

No. 8 World Public Information Campaign for Human Rights

No. 9 The Rights of Indigenous Peoples

No. 10 The Rights of the Child

No. 11 Summary or Arbitrary Executions

No. 12 The Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination

No. 13 International Humanitarian Law and Human Rights

No. 14 Contemporary Forms of Slavery

No. 15 Civil and Political Rights: The Human Rights Committee

No. 16 The Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights (Rev.1)

No. 17 The Committee against Torture

No. 18 Minority Rights

No. 19 National Institutions for the Promotion and Protection of Human Rights

No. 20 Human Rights and Refugees

No. 21 The Human Right to Adequate Housing

No. 22 Discrimination against Women: The Convention and the Committee

No. 23 Harmful Traditional Practices Affecting the Health of Women and Children

No. 24 The Rights of Migrant Workers

No. 25 Forced Eviction and Human Rights

PROFESSIONAL TRAINING SERIES

No. 1 Human Rights and Social Work: A Manual for Schools of Social Work and the Social Work Profession

No. 2 Human Rights and Elections: A Handbook on the Legal, Technical and Human Rights Aspects of Elections

No. 3 Human Rights and Pre-Trial Detention: A Handbook of International Standards relating to Pre-Trial Detention

No. 4 National Human Rights Institutions: A Handbook on the Establishment and Strengthening of National Institutions for the Promotion and Protection of Human Rights

HUMAN RIGHTS STUDY SERIES

No. 1 Right to Adequate Food as a Human Right

No. 2 Elimination of All Forms of Intolerance and Discrimination based on Religion or Belief

No. 3 Freedom of the Individual under Law: an Analysis of Article 29 of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights

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